SERVICES AND PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS

DENDY AGATE

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THE GIFT OF

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

OF LONDON, ENGLAND

A BOOK OF

SERVICES AND PRAYERS

For Sunday Schools.

COMPILED BY

DENDY AGATE.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION,
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PREFACE.

IN compiling this little book, I have tried to secure as much variety of expression as possible, and at the same time to keep in view the fact that the religious conceptions and aspirations of the young people in our Sunday Schools are comparatively few and simple, however deep and earnest they may be. The particular order which I have followed in the Four Services for Morning and Afternoon will, I hope, be found by use to be a good one ; though it can easily be modified at the Minister's will by the insertion of Scripture lessons, additional hymns, etc. The term "Minister" describes, of course, the Conductor of the Service, whoever he may be. The Responses should be said *standing*. If the portions allotted to the Teachers and Scholars can be set to simple music, so much the better. In the Chants, words that require to be accented are marked thus, "práise ;" and those which take two notes, thus, | *hath* – | .

The General and Special Prayers and the Collects will give additional variety ; or, like the prayers in the eight services, may be used by themselves, when for any reason the full form is not thought desirable. But the interest of any united act of worship is greater, when the congregation itself—whether of adults or young people—takes some considerable part in it. I would suggest that the Services be used in pairs a month at a time, the series thus covering four months. By this plan, both familiarity and freshness are secured.

Several of the Prayers are taken by permission from a MS. collection made some years since for use in the Portland Street Sunday Schools. I have to acknowledge the courtesy of the Editors of "Common Prayer for Christian Worship," in allowing me to reprint the Chant, "Seek ye the word of the Lord and read." And I am especially indebted for valuable suggestions to the American Universalist volume, "The Altar," and to the "Services for Sunday Schools, by Ministers of the Church of Scotland."

DENDY AGATE.

GORTON, *May* 1886.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
First Morning Service	4
Second „ „	6
Third „ „	8
Fourth „ „	10
First Afternoon „	12
Second „ „	14
Third „ „	16
Fourth „ „	18
Three General Prayers	20
A Prayer for the New Year	23
„ in Spring, or for Easter Day	24
„ „ Summer	25
„ „ Harvest-Time	26
„ for Christmas	27
„ „ the last Sunday in the Year	28
„ after the Death of a Teacher or Scholar	29
Collects and Benedictions	30
A Prayer before Service	32
A Teacher's Prayer	32

183

First Morning Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. Our voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord.

Teachers and Scholars. In the morning will we direct our prayer unto thee, and will look up.

M. O Lord, open thou our lips.

T. and S. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

CHANT.

O cóme, let us síng un-|to the|Lord :|| let ús make a joyful nóise to the|rock of|our sal-|vation. ||

Let us cóme before his présence|with thanks-|giving :|| and make a jóyful noise|unto|him with|psalms. ||

For the Lórd is a|*great* –|God :|| and a great|King a-|bove all|gods. ||

In his hánd are the deep pláces|of the|earth :|| the stréngth of the|hills is|*his* –|also. ||

The séa is hís,|and he|made it :|| and his hánds|formed|the dry|land. ||

O cóme, let us wórship|and bow|down :|| let us knéel be-|fore the|Lord our|Maker. ||

For hé|is our|God :|| and we áre the people of his pásture, and the|*sheep* –|of his|hand. ||

Now únto the King etérnal, im-|mortal, in-|visible :|| the|only|*wise* –|God :||

Bé|honour and|glory : for|ever and|ever. A-|men. ||

M. Let us pray.

O GOD, our Father, we thank thee for having kept us in health and strength during another week, and for bringing us together this morning to praise and bless thee. Grant that we may come to thee in a true and humble spirit;

that we may not make mention of thy lovingkindness without also remembering our sins, and that we may not ask thy forgiveness without being ready to forgive those who have wished or done us evil. O thou Father of mercies, blessed be thy name for all thy goodness; for thou hast watched over us at all times. We depend upon thee for the supply of our daily wants, and we trust ourselves to thy keeping during our nightly rest. In joy and sorrow alike, thou art our constant Friend, blessing us when others grow weary, and when else we should be left alone. O thou Guide of the young and Protector of the weak, we earnestly pray that we may remember thee in the days of our youth, while the evil days come not. Let thy will be the rule of our lives; and, as we grow in years, suffer us not to lose the pure love, the holy faith, and the simple obedience of children. Thus, as followers of Jesus Christ, may we be thine for time and for eternity. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Help us, O God, to love thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves.

Teachers and Scholars. Grant us this grace, O Lord.

M. Help us to bear the yoke of Christ, and to be meek and lowly in heart.

T. and S. Grant us this grace, O Lord.

M. Help us to be kind and generous to each other, and to all thy children.

T. and S. Grant us this grace, O Lord; and strengthen us for thy most holy service.

[HYMN.]

[THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

Second Morning Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. Come, let us return unto the Lord, and he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Teachers and Scholars. Blessed be the Lord God, who turneth not our prayer away, nor his mercy from us.

M. Lift up your hearts.

T. and S. We lift them up unto the Lord.

CHANT.

O be jóyful in the Lórd, | all ye | lands : || serve the Lórd with gladnéss, and cóme before his | presence | with a | song. ||

Know yé that the Lórd | he is | God : || it is hé that hath made ús, | and not | we our- | selves ; ||

Wé | are his | people : || ánd the | *sheep* – | of his | pasture. ||

Enter into his gátes | with thanks- | giving : || ánd | into his | courts with | praise ; ||

Be thánkful | unto | him : || ánd | speak good | of his | name. ||

Fór the | Lord is | gracious : || hís | mercy | is ever- | lasting ; ||

And hís | truth en- | dureth : || from géner- | ation | to gener- | ation. ||

Nów unto the | God of | grace : || for the míght of his Spírit | and the | love of | Christ ; ||

Be glóry in the Chúrch through- | out all | ages : || world | without | end. A- | men. ||

M. Let us pray.

O GOD, our Father, who art with us here, and seest us as we kneel before thee, help us to lift up our hearts in thankfulness to thee for all thy care and the countless blessings which we owe to thy love. We thank thee for watching over

us during the hours of darkness, and keeping us while we slept. We thank thee too for waking us up to the duties and the happiness of another day. Father, grant that we may be kept from doing wrong this day, and may learn better and better how to please thee, and how to love and thank thee more. We are thy children, and we would become more like thy Son Jesus Christ, who always did thy will. Help us to learn more about him, and to remember what we learn, so that this day which thou hast given us may not have been spent in vain. Keep us, O God, from idle words, and unkind actions. Fill us with a spirit of reverence and obedience and love: and may we remember that we spend every hour of our lives in thy sight, and under thy protecting care.

O Father, we would ask all these blessings in the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose disciples we desire to be. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Bless, O Father, all whom we love:

Teachers and Scholars. And help us to walk in our homes with a perfect heart.

M. Thou hast given us to each other:

T. and S. May we have joy in each other that passeth not away.

M. We would remember before thee all the sick, the suffering, and the afflicted:

T. and S. May thy peace abide in their hearts; and do thou grant them patience under all their trials.

[HYMN.]

[THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

Third Morning Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. God be merciful unto us and bless us;
Teachers and Scholars. And cause his face to shine upon us.
M. Praise ye the Lord.
T. and S. The Lord's name be praised.

CHANT.

I wíll extol thée, my | God, O | King : || and I will bléss thy náme | for e- | ver and | ever. ||
Every dáy | will I | bless thee : || and I will práise thy náme | for e- | ver and | ever. ||
Gréat is the Lórd, and greatly | to be | praised : || and His greátness | *is* – | *un* – | searchable. ||
One géneration shall práise thy wórks | to an- | other : || and shall de- | clare thy | mighty | acts. ||
The Lórd is gracious and fúll | of com- | passion : || slow to anger | and of | *great* – | mercy. ||
The Lórd is | good to | all : || and his tender mércies are | over | all his | works. ||
All thy wórks shall práise | thee, O | Lord : || and thy sáints | *shall* – | *bless* – | thee. ||
They shall spéak of the glóry | of thy | kingdom : || and tálk | *of* – | *thy* – | power. ||
The Lórd is nígh unto all thém that cáll | upon | him : || even to all that cáll | upon | him in | truth. ||
My móuth shall speak the práise | of the | Lord : || and let all flésh bless his holy náme | for e- | ver and | ever. ||
Glóry be to Gód, the | Father Al- | mighty : || Ma- | ker of | heaven and | earth ; ||
As it wás in the begínning, is nów, and | ever | shall be : || world | without | end. A- | men. ||

M. Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Father in heaven, we would give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all men. We thank thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. And we thank thee that thou hast sent Jesus Christ to be our guide and example, and hast made thyself known to us through him as our Father in heaven. Yet though thou art a gracious and tender Father to us, we have not been good, obedient children to thee. We have too often done those things that we ought not to have done, and left undone those things that we ought to have done. Forgive us, we pray thee, and help us to love thee more and serve thee better. Help us to remember that thou seest us always; and may this thought keep us from doing what will displease thee. Help us to put away all bitterness, and anger, and unkind feelings from our hearts: and make us kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving, like our Lord Jesus Christ.

May thy peace dwell in our hearts, and make us truly thy children. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Lord, in our work and rest, in our joy and sorrow;

Teachers and Scholars. Be thou with us, for thy mercy's sake.

M. May our hearts always be open to all good thoughts;

T. and S. And may we think and speak and act as thou wouldest have us do.

M. May we live as thy loving children here;

T. and S. Until thou call us to our eternal home with thee.

[HYMN.]

[THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

Fourth Morning Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. Offer unto God the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and call upon the name of the Lord.

Teachers and Scholars. We will utter the memory of his great goodness, and sing of his righteousness.

M. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

T. and S. He is our God for ever and ever; he will be our Guide even unto death.

CHANT.

It is a good thíng to give thánks un-|to the|Lord :‖ and to sing práise unto thy|náme, O|God most|High ;|

To show forth thy lovingkíndness|in the|morning :| and thy|faithfulness|every|night. ‖

The day is thíne; the níght|also is|thine :‖ thou hast prepáred the|*light* –|and the|sun. ‖

From the rising of the sún, unto the going|down there-|of :‖ the Lórd's|name is|to be|praised. ‖

I laid me|down and|slept :‖ I awáked for the|Lord sus-|tained|me. ‖

Léad me in thy trúth|and teach|me :‖ for thóu art the Gód of my salvátion; on thee dó|I wait|all the|day. |

Blessed be the Lórd, because he hath heard the vóice of my|supplic-|ations :| the Lord is my stréngth and my shíeld, my heart trusted in hím|*and* –|I am|helped. ‖

I will praise thée with my|*whole* –|heart :‖ I will bléss thy náme, for thy loving-|kindness|and thy|truth. ‖

Glóry be to|God most|High :‖ the|ever|blessed|Father ;‖

Who is, and wás,| and shall|be :‖ world|without|end. A-|men.‖

M. Let us pray.

LORD of our life, at the beginning of this day of rest we come before thee with our tribute of praise and prayer. Do thou, who art not hid from the pure in heart, drive from our minds and hearts every cloud of sin and evil which would

hide thy face from us. Make us to feel that we are ever in thy presence, though we see thee not, and that wherever we go, thou art with us continually. With this thought may we turn away from all that is displeasing to thee, and do only those things which we shall not be afraid for thee to behold. Thou art a God of truth : make us truthful and upright in our daily life, that we may never be tempted by the wish for any pleasure, or the fear of any pain, to do or speak that which we know to be wrong in thy sight. Thou art also a God of love : so fill us with that divine spirit that we may be true disciples of him whose commandment was that we should love one another. O Father, thou hast been very merciful to us in the time that is past, and hast given us more blessings than we can ever thank thee for. Help us, that we may be less unworthy to receive thy gifts ; and do thou take us by the hand and guide our steps, so that we may be ever nearer the example set before us by Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Lord, we pray for all mankind ; for thy Church throughout the world ; for all who bear rule in this and other lands.

Teachers and Scholars. Hear us in thy mercy, O Lord our God.

M. We pray for all who wander from thy way, that they may be brought back to thee in penitence, and may find life in thy favour.

T. and S. Have mercy on them, and on us, O Lord, for we have all sinned against thee.

M. We pray that the light of thy countenance may shine on all thy faithful children.

T. and S. And that all men may learn the blessedness of loving and serving thee.

[HYMN.]

[THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

First Afternoon Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. All thy children shall be taught of the Lord.

Teachers and Scholars. And great shall be the peace of thy children.

M. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

T. and S. Happy is he whose hope is in the Lord his God.

CHANT.

Unto thee, O Lórd, do I lift | up my | soul : || O my Gód I trust in thée ; let mé | *not* – | be a- | shamed. ||

Shéw me thy | ways, O | Lord : | and | *teach* – | me thy | paths. |

Léad me in thy trúth, | and teach | me : || for thou art the Gód of my salvátion ; on thee dó | I wait | all the | day. |

Remember, O Lórd, thy | tender | mercies : | and thy loving-kíndnesses which have | been e- | ver of | old. |

Remember not the síns of my yóuth nor | my trans- | gressions : || according to thy mércy, remember thou mé, for thy | goodness' | sake, O | Lord. ||

Good and upríght | is the | Lord : | therefore will he téach | sinners | in the | way. ||

The meek will hé | guide in | judgment : || and the méek | will he | teach his | way. ||

Let integrity and upríghtness pre- | *serve* – | me : || for in thée | *hath* – | been my | hope. ||

Now únto the King etérnal, im- | mortal, in- | visible : || the | only | *wise* – | God ; ||

Be | honour and | glory : || for | ever and | ever. A- | men. ||

M. Let us pray.

O THOU who art the Fountain of all goodness, we would ever look for thy guidance and blessing. May we come to thee in a sincere spirit ; and if we cannot bring to thee the

fruits of well doing in the time that is past, help us to become better and more faithful in the future. Thou dost know the secrets of all hearts, and how far we really desire to be that which we profess with our lips. We cannot hide anything from thee; and though we may deceive others or even ourselves, thou dost know us altogether. O then may we spend our lives in the effort to make them acceptable to thee, and to keep them from sin, and from whatever is displeasing in thy sight. Bestow on us the spirit which so richly dwelt in Christ, that we may never grow weary in well doing or give way to the evil which is around us. Make us faithful and earnest in all our duties, affectionate and obedient in our homes, kind and gentle to all with whom we have to do. As disciples of thy beloved Son, may we practise the precepts which he taught by loving thee with all our hearts and our neighbours as ourselves. We commit ourselves and all who are dear to us unto thee, knowing that all thy children are safe in thy holy keeping now and evermore. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Children, obey your parents in the Lord.

Teachers and Scholars. For this is right.

M. Even a child is known by his doings;

T. and S. Whether his work be pure and whether it be right.

M. The path of the just is as the shining light;

T. and S. Which shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

M. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us;

T. and S. As we do put our trust in thee.

[HYMN.]

[THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

Second Afternoon Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. We will enter into thy gates with thanksgiving, O God, and into thy courts with praise:

Teachers and Scholars. We will lift up our hands in thy name, and bless thee while we live.

M. Open to me the gates of righteousness:

T. and S. I will go in at them, and I will praise the Lord.

CHANT.

The Lórd | is my | shepherd: || I | *shall* – | *not* – | want. ||
He maketh mé to lie dówn in | *green* – | pastures: | he leadeth me be- | side the | *still* – | waters. ||
He re- | storeth my | soul: || he leadeth mé in the paths of rightéousness | for his | *name's* – | sake. |
Yea, though I wálk through the valley of the shadow of déath, I wíll | fear no | evil: || for thou art with mé; thy rod and thy | staff they | comfort | me. ||
Thou preparest a táble | before | me: || thou anointest my héad with oil, and my | *cup* – | runneth | over. |
Surely góodness and mercy will follow me all the dáys | of my | life: || and I shall dwell in the hóuse | of the | Lord for | ever. ||
Nów unto the | God of | grace: | for the míght of his Spírit | and the | love of | Christ; ||
Be glóry in the Chúrch through- | out all | ages: | world | without | end. A- | men. ||

M. Let us pray.

CREATOR of the heavens and the earth; how shall we enter thy presence, and speak thy praise? We cannot so much as count the number of thy works, for thou art far beyond our highest thoughts. And yet while thou art thus removed from us in power and majesty, thou art also our

Father, who dost tenderly watch over us and love us. Our littleness does not shut us out from thee, for there is nothing so small as not to be cared for by thy providence. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without thee, and the very hairs of our head are all numbered. We draw near to thee, therefore, with the love and trust of children, thanking thee for everything thou hast done for us. We bless thee for creating us in thine own image, for placing us in this beautiful world, for the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the homes in which we live. We praise thee for the spirit of affection within us, which binds us together in families and friendships. We praise thee that thou hast taught us something of thyself. We earnestly pray that, as we think of these thy mercies, we may grow into a deeper love and reverence, and into a stronger desire to serve thee. Bless the instruction we have here received to-day; be with us through the coming night; and when the morning calls us forth again to serve thee, may thy love rule in our hearts, and thy light shine upon our onward way. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?

Teachers and Scholars. By taking heed thereto according to thy word.

M. With my whole heart have I sought thee;

T. and S. O let me not wander from thy commandments.

M. Thy word have I hid in my heart;

T. and S. That I might not sin against thee.

M. Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;

T. and S. And I shall keep it unto the end.

[HYMN.]

[THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

Third Afternoon Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. The day is thine, O Lord; the night also is thine.

Teachers and Scholars. The darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

M. God be merciful unto us and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us.

T. and S. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace.

CHANT.

Séek ye the wórd of the | Lord and | read : || for his thoughts | are not | as our | thoughts. ||

Strengthen yé | the weak | hands : || and con- | firm the | feeble | knees ; ||

Say to thém that are of a | fearful | heart : | Be | *strong ;* – | *fear* – | not ; ||

Behold your Gód will | bring de- | liverance : || he will | come and | *save* – | you. ||

Then shall the éyes of the blínd | be o- | pened : || and the eárs of the | deaf shall | be un- | stopped. ||

Then shall the lame leap | as the | hart : || and the tóngue | of the | dumb shall | sing. ||

In the wilderness shall wáters | *break* – | out : || and stréams | in a | thirsty | land ; ||

The solitary pláce | shall be | glad : || and the désert shall | blossom | as the | rose. ||

And a highway | shall be | there : || the | way of | holi- | ness ; ||

To the méek it shall be a | path of | light : || and the wayfaring mán | shall not | err there- | in. ||

Cóme, walk | in his | word : || with | *songs* – | *of* – | joy ; ||

And sorrow | and | sighing : || shall | *flee* – | *a* – | way. ||

Glóry be to Gód, the | Father Al- | mighty : || Ma- | ker of | heaven and | earth ; ||

As it wás in the begínning, is nów, and | ever | shall be : || world | without | end. A- | men. ||

M. Let us pray.

HEAVENLY FATHER, who besettest us behind and before, we would once more draw near unto thee who art always near to us. We would try to realise thy presence more than we have hitherto done, to think of thee not as a God who dwellest far away in the sky above, but as a Father, who art with us everywhere, who carest for the least of thy children, and who knowest all our thoughts and desires. O what joy would this thought give us, if our lives were as pure and holy as they ought to be, if we had not done so many things which give us cause for shame. And yet, O Father, we would still cling to thee as the only rock of trust; and we earnestly beg that thou wilt continue to us thy gracious help. We thank thee for the opportunities which we enjoy of growing in wisdom and goodness, and for all the outward gifts which make our lives useful and happy. We sincerely pray that these blessings may be the means of leading us in the ways of truth and righteousness; and thus may we daily approach nearer thy divine perfection, and at length be received into thy kingdom. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Jesus said, Blessed are the poor in spirit:

Teacher and Scholars. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

M. Blessed are they that mourn:

T. and S. For they shall be comforted.

M. Blessed are the meek:

T. and S. For they shall inherit the earth.

M. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:

T. and S. For they shall be filled.

M. Blessed are the merciful:

T. and S. For they shall obtain mercy.

M. Blessed are the pure in heart:

T. and S. For they shall see God.

M. Blessed are the peacemakers:

T. and S. For they shall be called the children of God.

M. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:

T. and S. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

M. Lord, write all these words in our hearts:

T. and S. And help us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

[HYMN.] [THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

Fourth Afternoon Service.

RESPONSES.

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Teachers and Scholars. And with thy spirit.

M. The Lord is in his holy temple.

T. and S. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

CHANT.

Práise | ye the | Lord : || praise ye the Lórd from the heávens, praise | *him* – | in the | heights. | [hosts. ||

Praise ye him, | all his | angels : || praise ye hím, | *all* – | *his* – |

Praise ye him, | sun and | moon : || praise hím, | all ye | stars of | light. ||

Praise hím, ye | heaven of | heavens : || and ye wáters that | be a- | bove the | heávens. ||

Let them práise the name | of the | Lord : | for he commánded, | and they | were cre- | ated. ||

He háth also established thém for | ever and | ever : | he hath máde a de- | cree which | shall not | pass. || [his | word ; |

Fire and hail, snów | and va- | pours : || stormy | wind ful- | filling

Mountáins | and all | hills : | fruitful | trees and | *all* – | cedars ; |

Beásts | and all | cattle : | creeping | things and | flying | fowl ; ||

Kings of the eárth | and all | peoples ; || prínces | and all | judges of the | earth : || [ren ; ||

Both young mén | *and* – | maidens : || óld | *men* – | *and* – | child-

Let them práise the name | of the | Lord : || for his name alone is excéllent ; his glóry is a- | bove the | earth and | heaven. ||

Glóry be to | God most | High : | the | ever | blessed | Father ; ||

Who is, and wás, | and shall | be : | world | without | end. A- | men. ||

M. Let us pray.

O THOU who art the Giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank thee for this day of rest and worship. During all our lives thou hast supplied our wants; thou hast protected us in many an hour of danger; and now we come together to praise thee and to seek thy blessing. As we thus enter into thy nearer presence, may we fix our thoughts on

thee. No secret thing is hid from thee, and thou carest not for the words of our mouths, if in our hearts we do not feel and mean what we are saying. Help us to be truthful and earnest in our lives; and since thou dost see and know all things, may we do nothing that we should wish to hide from thy sight. We thank thee, Father, for the constant order of thy providence, which brings round the seasons in their turns; and also for the love which draws us to each other and to thee. We bless thee for sending Jesus Christ to show us thy goodness, and to teach us that thou art our Father, and that amid all thy countless works, thou dost never forget even the least of thy children. And we pray that, in thinking and reading of his holy life, of his readiness to serve others, and of his perfect obedience to thy will, we may gain some likeness to him, so that our lives may become more gentle, pure, and true, and we may be less unworthy of all thy love and care. Hear us, O Father, for thy mercy's sake, and lead us, day by day, in the paths of truth and goodness. *Amen.*

[*Here may be inserted one of the prayers or collects, pp.* 23-31.]

RESPONSES.

Minister. Jesus said, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you;

Teachers and Scholars. Do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.

M. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven;

T. and S. For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

M. Be ye therefore perfect; [perfect.

T. and S. Even as your Father which is in heaven is

M. Lord, write these words in our hearts, we beseech thee.

T. and S. And may we love and serve thee better day by day.

[HYMN.]

[THE LORD'S PRAYER CHANTED.]

General Prayer.

I.

O THOU Father of mankind, who dost call thy children to love and obey thee, we come into thy presence to bless thee and to receive thy blessing. It is thou who hast made us, and not we ourselves. Everything that makes us happy—every joy of our lives—comes from thee. But when we remember how much thou dost think of us, and how little we have thought of thee, we feel the need of thy forgiving love. Pardon us for what thou hast seen amiss in our past lives, and lead us to live more faithfully in the future. Help us to put far away every thoughtless word and deed, to avoid those things which are evil, and to seek only those which are pure and innocent. Teach us that we do not live for ourselves alone; and as thou hast given us hearts to love and hands to serve, may we ever be ready to employ thy gifts for the good of others and for thy glory. We need thy help, that we may be what we are called to be, children of the Eternal Father. Give us that help, O Lord, according to our need; and grant that the good seed sown in our hearts to-day may bear abundant fruit in time to come. *Amen.*

General Prayer.

II.

ETERNAL God, who hast given life to everything that lives, and who blessest all that thou hast made, we praise thee for thy constant goodness towards us. Though we see thy works on every side, and enjoy thy blessings each day of our lives, yet because we do not see thee with our eyes and hear thee with our ears, we often forget thee, and act as if there were no God in heaven who knows our deeds and words and thoughts. But, O Father, in our hearts we desire to love and serve thee; and it is only when other thoughts and cares fill our minds that we thus fail in our duty and gratitude. Be then very near us as we come to make our prayer to thee and give us such a sense of thy presence that we may put away in very shame our impure thoughts and selfish desires. We all need thy blessing, O God, for without thee we are nothing and can do nothing. May those who have cause for rejoicing give thanks to thee who art the Giver of every good and perfect gift; and may those who are in sorrow find comfort in trusting thy perfect providence. Help us at all times to listen to thy voice within our hearts, and so long as life is granted to us may we, as Jesus did, grow in wisdom and in goodness. And then, O Father, receive us into thy nearer light, to join the faithful who have gone before. *Amen.*

General Prayer.

III.

O THOU who art pleased when we come to thee with our prayers, and who dost permit us to call thee by the dear name of Father, we thank thee for all thy loving-kindness and tender mercy. There has been no part of our life unblest by thee. When there is nothing to sadden us, so that we are apt to forget thee altogether, and also when our path seems so dark that we do not see any heavenly light streaming in upon it, at all times thou art our Father, and art giving us those things which we most need. We bless thee for the wonder and beauty of the creation by which we are surrounded on every side, appearing in the least as well as the greatest of thy works. All these proclaim a power and love greater than we can understand. We thank thee for the affections which unite us to each other, which establish us in our homes, and cause our parents to watch over us with such untiring care; but still more do we praise thee for thyself, who art greater than all thy works. We rejoice to know that though thou art so great and mighty, thou dost still care for each of us, and dost teach us how we may best please thee. We thank thee for the peace and happiness which are ours every time we overcome some selfish feeling; and we would thank thee also for the pain and sorrow we feel whenever we have given way to evil desires. O strengthen us, Father, that we may more and more choose the better part, that we may not only avoid wicked actions, but may also keep our thoughts pure, that so our whole life may be acceptable in thy sight. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the New Year.

ETERNAL GOD, our times are in thy hand. Thou hast set before us the open door of another year; and on its threshold we would give ourselves once again to thee. What are we, O Lord, that thou shouldest pour so many blessings upon us? We look into our own hearts, and there we see much that we know is not as thou wouldest have it to be; we look back upon the past, and we remember how often we have sinned against thee, our Father. But we know that thy love never faileth; and, as we think of all thy goodness to us, our hearts are touched again with the desire to prove our love to thee by patient doing of our work, by kindness and helpfulness in our daily life, by keeping our thoughts pure in thy sight. Lord, we know not how long thy wisdom will continue to us the life which thy goodness first bestowed. We would pray only that whether our life be long or short, we may live it as true disciples of Jesus Christ, bearing suffering and disappointment bravely, should they come to us, remembering always that we have a Father in heaven. We know that as we grow older, we are always learning something—be it good or bad—always making the lives of those about us either better and happier, or worse and more sorrowful. Help us then, O Father, so to learn and so to live, that we may ourselves be kept in all right ways, and may not by evil example harm one another. Let this be indeed a New Year to us in patience and purity, in inward peace, and in the services of Christlike love. *Amen.*

A Prayer in Spring, or for Easter Day.

GOD of the seasons, we thank thee for the return of spring. We thank thee for the rain that falls to refresh the face of the earth, for the soft breeze which tells us that winter is passing away. We thank thee for the renewed beauty of the world, for the bright fresh grass, the sweet flowers, the opening buds on every side. We thank thee for the song of the birds, for the clear sky above our heads, and for the sun with his life-giving light and heat. [We thank thee too for the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, and for the faith which this day brings to our hearts that those who are called from earth are still living unto thee. As we remember how he was faithful in the hour of death, and committed his spirit into thy keeping, may we trust thee to receive us also into thy nearer light, when our time shall come; and on this Easter morning may all good thoughts and blessed hopes be strong within us.] Let this, we pray thee, be the season of spring in all our souls. Let it not be in vain that year by year the mercies of thy outward providence are granted to us. Let thy loving care to us and all mankind draw us ever nearer to thee, that we may be delivered from coldness of heart, from hard thoughts of those among whom we live, from indifference to the truths we learn and the duties which are ours to do. Like sunshine on the earth may love of thee and of our fellows always make glad our hearts. And as this is the spring-time of our lives, grant that we may remember thee our Creator and our Father in the days of our youth, and that in all our after-life we may look back with joy to these first years in which we are learning and trying to do thy holy will. Hear us, O Father, for thy mercy's sake. *Amen.*

A Prayer in Summer.

ALMIGHTY LORD, we lift our hearts to thee in thankfulness for all the glory of the world in which we live. Once more thou hast brought round to us the season of summer, and we would rejoice and be glad in it. Thy light is everywhere abroad upon the earth, and we would pray that it may shine also into our souls. We bless thee for the beauty of long summer days, for all the riches of thy providence in field and wood and garden, and for the abundant promise of the coming harvest-time. We bless thee for the peacefulness of summer evenings, when our daily work is done, and we can think of thy goodness to us and all our brethren. Father, help us to remember that it is in thee that we live and move and have our being; that of thy great mercy we are permitted to share for a few years in the gifts which thou hast bestowed here upon the sons of men. Help us to look beyond all that we see, to thee, who art the Giver of all good things. May the light which shines from heaven upon this changing world, put into our minds the thought of the eternal light in which thou dwellest, the light whither each of us will in time be called to dwell with thee. In the days of earthly strength and gladness may our spirits glow with love to our heavenly Father, and may we follow in the steps of him who went about doing good. Hear us, we pray thee, O Father, and lead us safely through all our years of life. *Amen.*

A Prayer in Harvest-time.

WE bow before thee, gracious Father, in gratitude for thy never-failing bounties. The corn which waved on countless fields has been gathered in, the ripe autumn fruits have once more borne witness to thy care for us, and we thank thee with joyful hearts for all thy blessings. Long months ago, the sower cast the seed in faith into the ground; and thou didst not withhold the glowing sunshine and the needful rain. Generation by generation, and in every land, thy grateful children have raised the harvest song to thee; we, in our worship here to-day, would renew the thanks which every harvest-time calls forth; and, so long as the world shall stand, and spring and summer lead the way to the fulness of the harvest blessing, thy children will give praise to thee, the Source and Life of all. Lord, speak to our hearts now of that sure reaping which follows also in our human lives. In days gone by, we have sown both good and evil in our own and others' hearts. We have sown good thoughts and pure resolves, and these have sprung up in faith and blessing. We confess with shame that we have sown seeds of wickedness too; and we tremble as we think of the evil fruit which has come, or which will surely come, of such evil sowing. Lord of the harvest, pardon us, we pray thee, for the offences of the past, and give us grace henceforth to keep the ground of our hearts pure for thee. Abiding in the fellowship of Christ, may we reap in joy the harvest of a good conscience, of the love and trust of those among whom we live, and of the blessed knowledge that we are at one with thee. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Christmas.

GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we would gratefully commemorate his birth. We thank thee that by thy grace, the tender nurture of his home, and the noble strength and self-devotion of his character, he who as at this time was born a little child, became to us and millions more the great head of our religion. We thank thee that, tempted in all points like as we are, he triumphed over all temptation, and always rejoiced to do thy holy will. Make us, O Father, his true disciples. And as, at this happy Christmas time, we think of all that thou didst teach the world through him, may we seek to make bright the lives of all about us. Though the wind be keen without, let there be no coldness in the homes in which we live. Bless the poor and the afflicted, and may we each, according to his ability, know the blessedness of helping them in their need, and comforting them in their sorrows. As the snow falls soft and white upon the earth, and covers up its bareness with a beauty fresh from thee, so may gentleness and purity clothe our hearts. And may we trust ourselves and all whom we love to thy merciful keeping, in the faithful spirit of the Master whom we desire to follow. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Last Sunday in the Year.

O THOU who abidest the same through all the changes of our earthly life, we would offer thee our hearts' best thanks for all that thou hast done for us during the year that is now so near its close. When we stood at the beginning of the year, our hearts were full of hope, and we trusted that the new time would be a happy time for us all. And we made many good resolves, desiring to serve thee more faithfully than we had done before. Father, thou knowest what our life has been; and we would lay this latest of our years at thy feet in penitence, yet also in thankfulness and trust. Disappointments have come to us, which we have not borne with such courage as we might; and we are made sad by the remembrance of duties neglected, of evil things thought and said and done. We know, O God, that thou hast forgiven us; and we thank thee for the promise of thy continual help. We remember before thee, too, some who were with us when the year began, but whom thou hast now taken to thyself. Help us to follow them as they followed Christ, and may the thought of the heavenly home into which they have entered be a joy to us, even while we sorrow that we shall see their faces no more on earth. If thou spare us through the few remaining hours, until the new year has dawned, may we carry with us into the fresh period of our lives such gratitude for all thy loving-kindness, such earnestness in thy service, that we may feel that we have been brought nearer to thee, our God. *Amen.*

A Prayer after the Death of a Teacher or Scholar.

EVER blessed God, we bow before thee under the shadow of affliction. Thou hast taken from our midst one who went in and out among us, who shared our work and worship here, and whom we remember now in sorrow and in love. And we know that thou wouldest not have us put our grief hastily aside, and let our life pass on as if there were no vacant place in our school to-day. Yet would we not sorrow as those who have no hope. So, while our hearts are full of sadness with the thought of what we have lost, of the cutting short of a bright and happy and helpful life, we would be confident that thou hast taken him [her] whom we mourn into a better world, and a still nobler and more joyful service of the right and true. We believe that the living and those whom we call the dead are but one great household in thy sight; we are sure that nothing can befall us or any whom we love, here or hereafter, but by thy blessed will. Send thy comfort to the mourners in the afflicted home. Now and at all times may we all say with Christ, "Father, not my will, but thine be done." Mindful of the shortness and uncertainty of life, may we love and serve thee with a pure heart fervently, while health and strength are granted to us; and at the last may we meet thy call in peace. We rest in the faith that all thy children are safe evermore with thee. *Amen.*

Collects.

I.

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name. *Amen.*

II.

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; send thy holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. *Amen.*

III.

LORD of all power and might, who art the Author and Giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same, now and evermore. *Amen.*

IV.

GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do anything that is good without thee, may, by thee, be enabled to live according to thy will, as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

V.

O THOU who hast taught us to keep all thy commandments by loving thee, the Eternal God, and our neighbour as ourselves: grant us a peaceful spirit of divine affection, and of brotherly kindness and good will; that we may be devoted to thee with our whole heart, and united to each other in the true bond of charity, and so fulfil the law of Christ. *Amen.*

VI.

DEFEND, O Lord, us thy children with thy heavenly grace, that we may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy holy Spirit more and more, until we come to thy everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

VII.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer.

OUR FATHER who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Benedictions.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

THE Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace. *Amen.*

A Prayer before Service, for Teachers or Scholars.

ALMIGHTY GOD and Heavenly Father, I thank thee for all that thou art teaching me of thyself, and of thy will. Show me more and more what thou art, and what thou wouldest have me to be and do; incline my heart to keep thy law. Help me at all times to remember that I am thy child; and grant that we who are here gathered together may offer thee, in joyfulness and reverence, such worship as thou desirest, and may be helped and strengthened in the love and service of thee and of each other, in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Teacher's Prayer.

O GOD, who callest us to serve thee in pureness and devotion, help me I pray thee in the work which I have undertaken in the Sunday School. Mindful of the love and care bestowed upon me in my early years, may I strive to lead to thee the young hearts committed to my charge. Make me apt to teach, patient in all things, gentle and forbearing. Save me from despondency, and give me strength to do my duty in love and faithfulness, trusting the issues of my work to thee. Bless my fellow-labourers here, and may the spirit of Christ rule in all our hearts. Amen.

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